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Soviet Gave Rank of General To Swede for Spying Activity

Panel Reports Wennerstrom
Who Set Own Fee, Sought
Russian Citizenship

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Special to The New York Times

STOCKHOLM, April 29 — A

Swedish Army colonel, on trial as a spy for the Soviet Union, was quoted in an official report today as having said that his espionage activities were so successful that the Russians in reward gave him the rank of a major general.

The defendant, Stig Wennerstrom, also told a commission of the Swedish Parliament, according to its report, that he submitted an application eight years ago to receive Soviet citizenship.

The report, by six members of Parliament, included what appeared to be an 18-point criticism of the Government for not having heeded long-standing suspicions of Wennerstrom, who is accused of having spied for Moscow for 15 years.

Justice Minister Herman Kling conceded that the Government had been taken aback by the critical tone of the report. Three of the six investigators are members of the governing Social Democratic party.

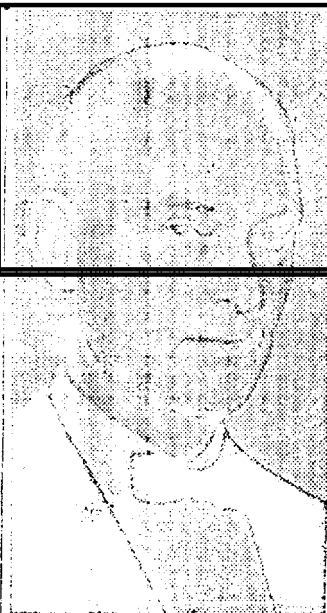
There were indications that the three Social Democrats themselves were surprised by the critical tone of what they had intended as an 18-point recitation of the facts in the case.

Adding to the chagrin of the Social Democratic Government was the fact that it believed a three-judge investigating group, in a report issued last week, absolved it of charges of negligence.

The judges said Wennerstrom had been so clever a spy that it was surprising he had been caught at all.

Justice Minister Kling said in an interview today, and Premier Tage Erlander supported him in a broadcast, that the judges had disposed of all of the points raised by the Parliamentary report. But Mr. Kling conceded that the new report bolstered coming efforts of the opposition to obtain censure of at least one Government minister.

The major target of criticism is Defense Minister Sven Anderson, who the Parliamentary report says, allowed a year to pass before he informed the Defense Ministry's security chief of suspicions that had been raised against Wennerstrom.



Associated Press
Col. Stig Wennerstrom

The investigators quoted the colonel as having said that he operated as a "top agent" under the code name "Eagle" with such success that many decorations were set aside for him in Moscow.

Moscow allowed him to set his own payment for his services. Wennerstrom was reported to have said, but he was cautioned against arousing suspicion by drawing too much money.

Wennerstrom was scheduled to go to Vienna last year to receive a "final" settlement involving a huge sum, the report continued, but he was arrested.

The colonel was said to have told the investigators that his espionage activities during five years in Moscow as Swedish air attache were directed mainly against the United States and other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Wennerstrom managed to pass many United States secrets to the Russians while serving as air attache in Washington beginning in 1952, the report added.

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